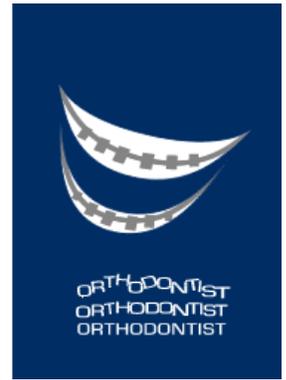


# COURTNEY ORTHODONTICS ON ELMIRA

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## RISKS OF ORTHODONTIC TREATMENT

Orthodontic treatment, like any medical or dental treatment, has some risks. These are seldom serious. However, you should consider them before proceeding with treatment. The more common risks in orthodontic treatment are:

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**Tooth staining and decay**      During treatment there is a risk your teeth may decay and be permanently marked from lack of adequate care and cleaning. It is essential you keep your teeth very clean and avoid sugary food and drinks to keep your teeth healthy.

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**Return of orthodontic problems**      Teeth can move after orthodontic treatment. This can even lead to a return of your original orthodontic problem. Retainers are fitted when orthodontic appliances are removed to help prevent unwanted changes to your teeth.

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**Long term stability**      Natural changes of the teeth and bite occur throughout life. This means that even years after orthodontic treatment some changes to your teeth are still possible.

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**Prolonged treatment time**      Unexpected factors can extend treatment: broken braces, not wearing elastics as directed, and missing appointments are common causes of prolonged treatment.

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**Dead Teeth**      Sometimes a tooth may die before, during or after orthodontic treatment. This usually occurs if there was a previous injury to the teeth.

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**Jaw joint problems**      During or after orthodontic treatment patients may experience pain or tenderness of the jaw muscles and joints. Some people are naturally susceptible to joint problems with or without orthodontic treatment. These usually improve without specific treatment.

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**Unpredictable biological factors**      On rare occasions a tooth may join to the bone (ankylosis). When this happens there may be no alternative but to have this tooth extracted and completely modify the treatment plan accordingly.

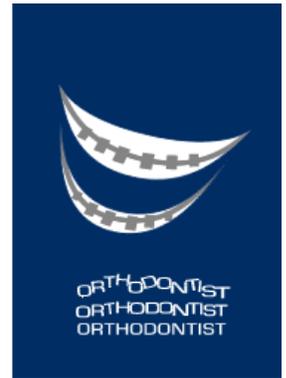
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**Root shortening** The roots of some teeth shorten during treatment. Usually this is not serious but on rare occasions it may contribute to the early loss of the teeth involved.

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**Gum problems** Bleeding and swollen gums are more common during treatment. Occasionally some of the gum and bone around the teeth can be lost. Certain people are prone to gum problems but you can usually keep your gums healthy by keeping your teeth and gums very clean.

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**Unusual growth** Unusual or disproportionate growth of the jaws can prolong orthodontic treatment and prevent full correction of the problem.

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**Problems with braces** The edges of some teeth may wear if the teeth bite or grind against the braces. When the braces are removed, fillings or a weakened tooth surface may be broken or removed.

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**Loose appliances and discomfort** Your gums, cheeks and lips may be scratched or irritated by newly placed braces, or by loose or broken wires. Please inform our office of broken or loose appliances, or any other problems, as soon as possible.

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**Possible alternative** For the vast majority of patients, orthodontic treatment is an elective procedure. One possible alternative to orthodontic treatment is no treatment at all. You could choose to accept your present oral condition and decide to live without orthodontic correction or improvement.

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**Conclusion** To minimise treatment time and reduce the chance of problems you should always remember to:

- **Keep your teeth and gums clean.**
- **Minimise sugary food and drink consumption.**
- **Follow all instructions.**
- **Report any problems promptly.**

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If you have any questions or concerns please ask a staff member or the orthodontist.